BACKGROUND TO LABplus

LABplus was set up by the Experiential Learning CETL (Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning) and was opened to students in 2007. The focus of the EL CETL’s work (2005-2010) was to maintain and enhance the student experience in fieldwork, laboratory work and work based learning within Geography, Geology, Environmental Science and Biological Science. One expression of this focus led to the development of LABplus.

WHAT IS LABplus

LABplus is a large open access learning space, in which students are able to rehearse field and laboratory skills. Students have access to a wide range of resources, including basic laboratory and fieldwork equipment (e.g. microscopes and GPS devices), laptops and literature. Other resources have been designed by academic and technical staff to compliment practical sessions, fieldtrips or lecture series. Most resources are contained in boxes and include ‘hands on’ materials, specimens and samples to help students contextualise their learning.

WHAT WE CAN OFFER

LABplus is now a Faculty of Science and Technology facility and focuses on developing resources for the following schools: School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Science, School of Biological and Biomedical Science and School of Marine Science and Engineering.

There is still plenty of space for new resource boxes and so new ideas are welcomed. If you feel you’re teaching and students would benefit from a LABplus resource, instructions on how to get your ideas into LABplus are overleaf.

For more information about LABplus visit www.plymouth.ac.uk/faculties/scitech/labplus
GETTING YOUR IDEA INTO LABplus

IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA GET IN TOUCH!

Contact the LABplus Technician (labplus@plymouth.ac.uk)
AND EITHER

Ask for a Work Request Form or download one
www.plymouth.ac.uk/faculties/scitech/labplus
under the ‘Internal Staff’ tab.
Fill in briefly and return to:
labplus@plymouth.ac.uk or
LABplus, Room 706, Davy Building

Send an email outlining the proposed idea.
Please include brief information about the task;
equipment and sample requirements;
any assistance required; projected cost;
and the date you need it by

The LABplus steering group will consider you idea

LABplus will then contact you to get your idea off the ground
and onto the 7th floor of the Davy building. We can:

– Offer advice and staff support
– Source and order equipment and materials
– Help collect and prepare specimens
– Help organise the work into a directed learning package

Individual tasks will usually be placed in discrete boxes. For example, a box may contain all of the materials required to introduce students to the principles of spectral analysis. LABplus will also house generic analytical instruments applicable to all environmental and biological sciences. Each box will be linked through the Voyager Aspire programmes to enable an integrated learning experience. Don’t worry if you don’t think your idea will fit neatly into a box. LABplus will provide a flexible approach to learning and can cater for most ideas.

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